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Clare Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of West Suffolk.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

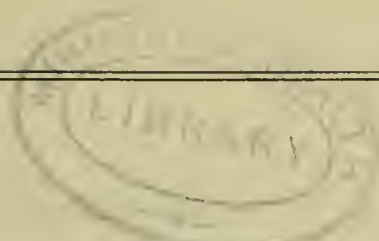
Medical Officer of Health

FOR



1925





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IN THE

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ANNUAL REPORT

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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year 1925 on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics for the Rural District of Clare.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as set forth in Circular 648 of December 10th, 1925, and is a Survey Report.

Survey Reports, as distinguished from the Ordinary Reports of intermediate years, are required quinquennially and constitute a general review of the measure of progress in matters affecting Public Health during the preceding five years.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Clare Rural District contains 19 parishes and is situated in the County of West Suffolk. Geologically most of the district is on the Glacial Drift formation. The boulder clay forms a tableland rising to about 400 feet above ordnance datum and cut irregularly by valleys the bottoms of which are covered by river drift gravel, loam and alluvium. The boulder clay is of considerable thickness and contains chalk stones and boulders of other rocks, underlying it is the white upper chalk which forms the basement rock of the district. All the streams drain the higher boulder clay by gentle slopes into the valley of the river Stour.

The river Stour flows in a Southerly direction through the Western portion of the district, then turning Eastwards forms its Southern boundary. The parishes are scattered and rural in character, there is no particular trade or industry apart from agriculture.

Area :—39,522 acres.

Population :—	Total.	Males.	Females.
Census 1911.	8,567.	4,352.	4,215.
Census 1921.	7,348.	3,729.	3,619.
Decrease.	1,219.	623.	596.

The population as estimated to the middle of 1925 is 7,388, on this figure the Birth and Death Rates for the year are calculated.

Number of inhabited houses, 1921.....1,952.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921.....1,958.

Number of rooms occupied 1921.....9,678.

Number of rooms per person 1921.....1.34

Number of persons per acre 1921......2

The population living more than two persons to a room is given in the 1921 Census Report as 372, the total for the whole of the administrative county of West Suffolk being 4,229.

Rateable Value of the District, :—Land £21,748.

Buildings £20,612.

Assessable Value £26,026-10s.

Sum produced by a penny rate :—£108.

The following extract from the Census Return of 1921 gives details as to occupations, it will be seen that out of 2,575 occupied males 1,658 are employed in agricultural occupations :—

	Males.	Females.
Total Population	3,729	3,619
Aged 0-11.	803	700
Aged 12 and upwards	2,926	2,919
Agricultural Occupations	1,658	25
Mining and Quarrying Occupations	8	
Makers of Bricks, Pottery, Glass	4	
Metal Workers	65	
Makers of Watches, etc.	6	1
Workers in Skins ; Leather Goods Makers	15	
Textile Workers	8	7
Makers of Textile Goods and Articles of Dress	30	86
Makers of Foods, Drinks and Tobacco	51	4
Workers in Wood, etc.	86	
Paper Workers, Printers, etc.	6	
Builders, Bricklayers, etc.	120	
Painters and Decorators	23	
Workers in Mixed and Undefined Materials	1	
Persons in Gas, Water, Electricity Supply	1	
Transport Workers	131	9
Commercial and Financial Occupations	107	40
Public Administration and Defence	30	15
Professional Occupations	36	59
Persons Employed in Entertainments, etc.	5	1
Persons Employed in Personal Service	84	393
Clerks, Draughtsmen, Typists, etc.	17	13
Warehousemen, etc.	4	1
Stationary Engine Drivers	6	
All other Occupations	73	1
Total Occupied	2,575	655
Unoccupied and Retired	351	2,264
Total Occupied and Unoccupied	2,926	2,919

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS :—	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate	102.	55.	47.	
Illegitimate	5.	3.	2.	
Grand Total	107.	58.	49.	
Birth Rate per thousand of population			...	14.4.
" " " " " "			(England and Wales)	18.3.

DEATHS :—	Total.	Male.	Female.	
	100.	52.	48.	
Death Rate per thousand population			...	13.5.
" " " " " "			(England and Wales)	12.2.
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth...				Nil.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was two ; based on a total of 107 Births this gives an Infantile Mortality figure of 18.7 per thousand Births.

Infantile Mortality figure, England and Wales ... 75.

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

Deaths from Measles (All ages)	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (All ages)	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (Under two years of age)	Nil.

AGES AT DEATH :—

Under 1 year	2
1 year and under 2 years	2
2 years and under 5 "	1
5 " " " 15 "	2
15 " " " 25 "	3
25 " " " 45 "	5
45 " " " 55 "	7
55 " " " 65 "	17
65 " " " 75 "	18
75 " and over	43
Total	100

61 per cent of the deaths were of people aged 65 and over.

Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for the District during the last ten years.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
1915.	17.5	15.	67.
1916.	16.1	16.1	86.
1917.	14.8	13.1	61.
1918.	16.1	16.5	48.
1919.	16.0	12.8	50.
1920.	24.0	14.8	67.
1921.	21.7	14.2	75.
1922.	20.0	17.7	81.
1923.	17.7	8.9	22.9
1924.	17.5	12.4	30.7
1925.	14.4	13.5	18.7

It will be seen that the birth rate has fallen considerably since 1920 and that there is a great diminution in the infantile mortality figure ; the death rate, however, has increased since 1923, but is still below that of previous years with the exceptions of 1923, 1919 and 1917.

At the same time it has to be borne in mind that the decrease in population as shown by the Census figures affects the younger and middle periods of life, viz. 0-25 years and 25-50 and that between the years 50-75 there has been a small increase in numbers.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All causes	52	48
Enteric Fever		
Small Pox		
Measles		
Scarlet Fever		
Diphtheria		
Influenza	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Meningococcal Meningitis		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1
Other Tuberculous disease	3	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	3	8
Rheumatic Fever		
Diabetes		1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	6	9
Heart Disease	7	6

Arterio sclerosis	2	1
Bronchitis	6	7
Pneumonia (all forms)		1
Other respiratory diseases		
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum		
Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years of age)		
Appendicitis and typhlitis		
Cirrhosis of liver		
Acute and chronic nephritis	3	1
Puerperal sepsis		
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy or parturition		
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	
Suicide		2
Other deaths from violence	4	1
Other defined diseases	15	10
Causes ill defined or unknown		
<hr/>		
Special causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
<hr/>		
Deaths of infants under one year	Total	2
	Illegitimate	
<hr/>		
Total Births	58	49
<hr/>		
Legitimate	55	47
Illegitimate	3	2
<hr/>		
Population	7,388	

There are no General Hospitals within the district, those available are Addenbrookes' Hospital, Cambridge, and the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds. The Poor Law Institution serving the district is situated within the area in the parish of Kedington.

The Midwives Act, the Maternity and Childrens Welfare, Tuberculosis and Venereal diseases Schemes are all administered by the County Council. Home visitation is carried out by the Staffs of the County Council and District Nursing Associations; there is no provision for the nursing of infectious disease in the home except for such cases of tuberculosis as are thought to require it and then it is done through

the District Nurses. There are four District Nurse Midwives practising in the district who between them take in the villages of Barnardiston, Kedington, Hundon, Stradishall, Denston, Wickhambrook, Clare, Stoke, Poslingford, Wixoe, Gt. Thurlow, Lt. Thurlow, Gt. Wratting and Lt. Bradley.

So far as maternity cases are concerned there are five ordinary lying in beds and one isolation bed at the West Suffolk General Hospital that are available for abnormal cases, emergencies, etc. Clinics are not held in the district, the nearest being those held monthly at Haverhill and at Bury St. Edmunds. In addition the County Council have an orthopædic scheme and children of school age and under can receive free treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS :—

Cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are admitted to the County Sanatorium at Bury St. Edmund's, this Institution has an accommodation of 20 beds.

VENEREAL DISEASES :—

Under the County Council's scheme treatment can be obtained by attendance at the Clinics held at one or other of the general hospitals available.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

There is no ambulance within the district either for cases of infectious cases or accident. The question of transport in this district is a matter of difficulty ; at present either an ambulance has to be obtained from some outside area or institution or some other form of conveyance hired.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :—

One whole time Sanitary Inspector who is also Inspector under the Housing Acts, Meat Regulations, Explosive Acts, etc.

The Clare Rural District Council has combined with other Authorities for the appointment of a whole time Medical Officer of Health, the Districts represented are :—

Newmarket Rural District, Cambs.				Population	18,647.
Clare	"	"	West Suffolk.	"	7,348.
Haverhill	Urban	"	"	"	4,083.
Moulton	Rural	"	"	"	2,189.
Bumpstead	"	"	Essex.	"	2,376.
				Total	<u>34,643.</u>

ISOLATION HOSPITALS :—

The question of hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease has been dealt with in previous reports and the following is a resume :—

The Clare and Bumpstead Rural Districts combined together to form a Joint Hospital Board consisting of the Chairman as ex officio member and four elective members from the Clare Rural District Council ; the Chairman and two elective members from the Bumpstead Rural District Council. The Joint Hospital, situated near Clare, was opened in 1902 and was intended for the reception of cases of Small Pox. The accommodation consists of two small wards and a Nurses room, providing four beds.

The building is a semi permanent structure and has fallen into a more or less derelict condition so that it could not be used even if required ; furthermore the accommodation would be quite insufficient to deal with more than an occasional case, apart from the difficulties in providing adequate nursing and medical attention.

An attempt to come to an arrangement with the Haverhill Urban District for the reception of cases at their Isolation Hospital fell through, so at the present time there is no provision for hospital isolation of cases of infectious disease, apart from small pox.

The practice followed has been that of home isolation, and while this may be satisfactory in some cases it cannot be carried out effectively in small cottages occupied by families of young children.

SMALL POX :—

An arrangement is in operation for the admission of any cases occurring in the district to the Small Pox Hospital for the County of West Suffolk at Bury St. Edmunds. The last case admitted was in 1919 when one occurred in the parish of Clare.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE :—

Model Building Bye-laws for Rural Districts, adopted Sept. 16th, 1904.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order adopted April 1st, 1908.

Bye-laws with respect to Slaughter-houses adopted May 8th, 1925.

There are no Local Acts in force in the District and the only adoptive Act in operation is the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, in so far as it is applicable to Rural Districts.

So far as new legislation is concerned the Public Health Act of 1925 came into operation in Sept. The Act is divided into nine parts of which part VII., dealing with infectious disease and Hospitals, and Part VIII., Miscellaneous, operate without adoption. A Rural District Council may adopt the provisions in Parts II. to IV. with the exception of a few sections intended to apply to Urban Districts only. Part V., dealing with water courses, streams, etc., cannot be adopted by a rural district council and part IX. only extends to any area in which the Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846-1899 may be in force.

The Consolidated Housing Act of 1925 brings within one Consolidating Act the housing powers and duties of Local Authorities under a series of nine Acts passed between 1890 and 1921. The financial provisions of the 1923 and 1924 Acts are not included in the 1925 Act and the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act of 1899 - as amended by the 1923 Act - is also left in operation. The effective Housing Acts now in operation are those of 1899, 1923, 1924 and 1925.

LABORATORY WORK :—

Chemical analyses of water etc. are carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. J. West Knights of Cambridge. The Council is not an Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act and the only analyses made were of water samples, a list of these is given under water supplies.

WATER SUPPLY :—

The water supply is obtained principally from the chalk although on high ground the boulder clay is of considerable thickness and the chalk water can only be reached by deep wells sunk through the clay into the chalk. The supply to the different parishes is partly through the medium of waterworks and partly by public and private wells. Clare, Hildon and Stoke have a constant piped supply, in the two former cases from waterworks which are the property of the Rural District Council, and in the latter from private waterworks the property of Lord Loch. Of the remaining parishes 16 houses in Little Wratting are supplied from the Haverhill Waterworks and a number of the houses in Poslingford are supplied from a tap near the school which is connected with the private supply at Poslingford Hall, nine have public pumps or wells and the others depend upon private wells or pumps.

CLARE :—The waterworks were completed in 1907 and filter beds were added in 1913. They are situated at Upper Common, Clare, at an elevation of about 253 feet above ordnance datum. The bore is 250 feet deep and lined to a depth of 161 feet, 137 feet are in boulder clay and 113 in the chalk. The water is pumped from the borehole to the filter beds and from thence passes to a service reservoir of 65,000 gallons capacity. The supply is constant and of good quality although the water possesses rather a high degree of hardness. 335 dwelling houses and the school are connected with the mains.

HUNDON :—The waterworks were completed in 1903 and are situated on high ground above the village at an elevation of 366 feet above ordnance Datum. The water is obtained from the chalk by a bored well and pumped to a reservoir of 40,000 gallons capacity. There are twelve standpipes situated at convenient parts of the parish, 21 houses and the school are connected with the mains.

STOKE :—The water is pumped from a well sunk into the chalk to a depth of 137 feet to a service reservoir of 50,000 gallons capacity. About 90 houses are supplied from the waterworks. The remainder depend upon private wells and springs.

LITTLE WRATTING :—A constant piped supply to 16 houses from the waterworks of the adjoining town of Haverhill. The remaining houses depend upon private wells.

The following Parishes have Public Pumps or Wells and no piped supply :—

Barnardiston.	One	public pump,	radius one half mile.
Cowlinge.	"	"	" " " "
Denston.	"	"	well " " quarter "
Gt. Bradley.	Two	"	pumps " " half "
Kedington.	One	"	" " " "
Lt. Thurlow.	Three	"	" " " "
	and one	"	well " " $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Stansfield.	Two	"	pumps " " $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Stradishall.	One	"	" " " quarter "
Withersfield.	"	"	" " " "
	and one	"	well " " half "

The remaining parishes depend upon private wells or springs for their supply.

Various repairs have been effected during the year in connection with the waterworks both at Clare and Hundon and the following samples of water have been taken for analysis.

Well, Baythorne Grove, Stoke-by-Clare.

Result of Analysis, unpolluted and fit for
drinking purposes.

„ Clare Vicarage	„	„	„	„	„
„ Clare Priory	„	„	„	„	„

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

There is no proper system of sewerage or of sewage disposal in any of the villages. A portion of the parish of Clare is, however, drained by means of a length of sewer terminating in septic tanks the effluent discharging into the river Stour; the sewerage from the twelve houses erected by the Rural District Council in 1921 is dealt with in a similar manner. In the latter case the effluent discharged into an open ditch alongside a field and distant about 70 yards from the houses. This arrangement proving unsatisfactory the ditch was piped in for a distance of about 50 yards. Pipes were also carried under the railway at the bottom of the field to terminate in agricultural pipes, and such of the effluent as is not already disposed of finds its way into the river Stour. A number of the houses along Chilton Street, including the school, drain into the Chilton stream, a tributary of the Stour. These two streams therefore receive a certain amount of pollution from the sewers of this parish but steps are taken to deal with the question as effectively as possible.

The privy system is in general use, the type of privy usually found serves as a receptacle for household and excremental refuse, the gradual conversion of these insanitary conveniences to pail closets is proceeding on steady lines. The number done away or converted during the last four years is as follows :—1922, 10 ; 1923, 12 ; 1924, 13 ; 1925, 40.

So far as can be ascertained the approximate numbers of each type of convenience in use at the present time are 1,031 pit privies ; 499 pail closets ; and 49 water closets. The following work in connection with drainage matters has been carried out during the year :—Seven pail closets at the Council Schools in Clare converted to water closets and new drainage systems installed in five other premises. Improvements as regards drainage have also been effected in respect of cottages at Withersfield, Stansfield, Stoke and Little Thurlow.

Number of pit privies abolished	...	40
„ „ new pail closets provided		28
„ „ pail closets repaired	...	9
„ „ new water closets provided		17

There is no system of public scavenging in operation in any of the parishes the removal of household refuse, etc. being carried out by the occupiers of cottages themselves who dispose of it upon garden ground or allotments. The majority of the parishes are small, scattered and rural in character and the question of extensive improvements as regards sewerage, water supply, etc. present considerable difficulties from a financial point of view. The fact remains, however, that a proper system of sewage disposal and of refuse removal in parishes that already have a piped supply of water would materially assist in improving existing conditions.

SCHOOLS :—

The following is a summary of the sanitary accommodation in the 15 Public Elementary Schools in the district :—

Eleven schools have pail closets, three have pit privies, only one is supplied with water closets. In the latter case the conversion from pail to water closets was effected during the year.

Water is laid on from the Council's Waterworks in the Clare and Hundon schools. Stoke school has a supply from the private waterworks at Stoke and at Poslingford water is obtained from a standpipe opposite the school. All the others rely on pumps or wells which, in some cases, are at quite a distance from the school premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following figures have been provided by Mr. B. Stock, C.R.S.I., of Clare, who is Sanitary Inspector for the District.

Number of Inspections :—					1,705
Complaints	—	—	—	—	14.
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	19.
House to House	—	—	—	—	191.
Cowsheds and Dairies	—	—	—	—	63.
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	268.
Knackers Yards	—	—	—	—	11.
Gipsies	—	—	—	—	4.
Water Supply	—	—	—	—	227.
Bakehouses	—	—	—	—	33.
Factories and Workshops	—	—	—	—	94.
Drainage Work	—	—	—	—	82.
New Buildings (Under building byelaws)				—	110.
General Inspections	—	—	—	—	264.
Re inspections	—	—	—	—	201.
Various purposes	—	—	—	—	81.
Petroleum Acts	—	—	—	—	38.
Explosive Acts	—	—	—	—	15.
Nuisances or defects found					357.
„ „ „ remedied					264.

Number of Notices served during the year :—

(a) Informal Written	152.	Complied with	139.
(b) Statutory	Nil.		

DISINFECTION :—

Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	—	Nil.
„ „ „ tuberculosis	—	2.
„ „ for other causes	—	3.
Shelters disinfected	—	1.

HOUSING.

No action has been taken with regard to the Housing Act of 1924 nor has any scheme been formulated by the Rural District Council whereby they undertake the erection of houses themselves. Financial assistance to private enterprise in the form of a lump sum subsidy of approximately £75 has been granted in respect of houses eligible for subsidy, this sum was ultimately raised to about £90. The general type of cottage in existence in the district is constructed of stud and plaster or clay brick walls with thatched roofs, although some are roofed with slates, tiles, or corrugated iron sheeting. The accommodation provided usually consists of a living room together with a smaller room used as a larder or general store room, and two bedrooms. The height of the living rooms vary from 6 - 7 feet, the bedrooms are low with sloping ceilings. There is no damp course and the walls may be damp some two to three feet above floor level. The living room floors are generally near or below the outside ground level being paved with bricks laid directly on the earth. There are, however, a number of cottages that are soundly constructed of brickwork. The defects usually dealt with are, as might be expected, of a constructional nature and would not appear to be particularly due to acts of waste or neglect by tenants or lack of supervision by owners.

There are in the district a number of houses with one and two bedrooms, the following list taken from the Housing Register indicates the approximate number in each parish :—

	One bedroom.	Two bedrooms.	Three bedrooms.	Total.
Barnardiston	—	23	6	29
Clare	30	186	60	276
Cowlinge	9	53	28	90
Denston	6	29	8	43
Gt. Bradley	7	24	15	46
Gt. Thurlow	3	17	39	59
Gt. Wratting	11	34	18	63
Hundon	12	89	37	138
Kedington	23	89	19	131
Lt. Bradley	2	2	7	11
Lt. Thurlow	10	32	16	58
Lt. Wratting	1	21	19	41
Poslingford	8	32	15	55
Stansfield	2	48	8	58
Stoke	22	71	32	125
Stradishall	9	40	6	55
Wickhambrook	15	118	32	165
Withersfield	9	65	29	103
Wixoe	3	13	11	27
Totals	182	986	405	1573

There do not appear to be many instances of overcrowding but there is a need for new houses of a better type and containing at least three bedrooms that could be let at a rent within the scope of the agricultural labourer. Since 1921 and up to the end of 1925 there have been 26 houses erected in the district, 12 of these were built by the Rural District Council at Clare in 1921 under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919, the rents are 7/6 a week plus rates, and none of the occupants could be strictly said to be of the working classes. Of the remainder six were built with the aid of the subsidy in 1924 and 1925, no houses were erected in 1922 and 1923. During the same period repairs have been carried out in 319 instances and it may be said that the principal difficulty found in remedying unfitness is one of cost, the expenditure being often heavy and the rents low so that there is little return on the capital outlay. No action has been taken under the Public Health Acts as regards unfit houses but when houses are in such a condition that they cannot be made fit Closing Orders are made as they become vacant or when alternative accommodation can be obtained, but the provision of other accommodation in these cases is a matter of difficulty under present circumstances.

Number of new houses erected during the year (including numbers given separately under *b*) :—

(a)	Total	—	—	—	—	6.
(b)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts 1919 or 1923.					
	(1)	By the Local Authority	—	—	—	Nil.
	(2)	By other bodies or persons	—	—	—	2.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	231.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	88.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation — — — | 4. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 81. |

II. REMEDY of defective without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers — —	54.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

III. ACTION under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs — — | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice | |
| (a) | by owners — — — | Nil. |
| (b) | by Local Authority in default of owners — | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | Nil. |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | |

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| (a) | by owners | — | — | — | Nil. |
| (b) | by Local Authority in default of owners | — | | | Nil. |

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | — | — | 3. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — | — | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | — | — | Nil. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — | — | Nil. |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — | — | Nil. |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK : —

63 Inspections were made in connection with milk supply and matters dealt with included structural defects, drainage, lighting and ventilation, etc.

There are 24 producers of milk and 17 retail purveyors of milk on the register, the average number of cows kept is about 9, the largest number in any one instance is approximately 120. The general condition of the cowsheds and standard of cleanliness attained may on the whole be described as fair. In 24 instances the water supply is obtained from streams and ponds, so far as the remainder are concerned a piped supply is available in addition.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, came into operation on September 1st, 1925. This Act contains a number of provisions designed to prevent the Sale for human food of tuberculous milk and enlarges the powers of the Officers of Local Authorities to take samples of milk. There are also provisions regarding the appointment of Veterinary Inspectors. No samples for bacteriological examination had been taken up to the end of the year nor have any instances of tuberculous cattle come to light.

No action has been necessary under Section 2 (1) of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, whereby the Local Authority has power under certain circumstances to refuse registration of or to remove from the register, retail purveyors of milk, either absolutely or in respect of any specified premises.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. No licence has been granted in the district for the sale of milk under special designations, nor is the Council an Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts or the Diseases of Animals Acts.

MEAT :—

The Rural District Councils (Slaughter-houses) Order, 1924, came into operation on January 1st, 1925 and provides for the registration with the local authority of all places actually in use and occupation as slaughter-houses at the date of commencement of the Order, places not in use or occupation at this time are required to be licenced, and the licence may be granted for a limited time (not less than 12 months) so that the Authority can exercise a discretion as to renewal. The local Authority is also required to make bye-laws for the licencing, registration, and control of these premises. Hitherto no legislation has been adopted or bye-laws made in regard to slaughter-houses in this district. During the year the Council has had the question of bye-laws under consideration and these were finally approved by the Ministry of Health on June 30th, 1925. The number of slaughter-houses in use in the district in 1920 was 9; in January, 1925, 14 were registered; in December, 1925, there were 13 on the register. There are no public slaughter-houses in the district and no licences have been issued in respect of new premises.

The 13 slaughter-houses are distributed as follows :—

Clare, 4 ; Gt. Thurlow, 2 ; Hundon, 2 ; Lt. Wratting, 1 ; Stansfield, 1 ; Stoke, 1 ; Wickhambrook, 1 ; Withersfield, 1. Seven deal with oxen pigs and sheep ; one with pigs and sheep ; in the remaining five pigs only are killed. The construction of these premises is good with the possible exception of three instances where there is room for improvement in this respect. Means of drainage is provided in all cases and where there are cesspools these are emptied frequently the contents being disposed of on arable land. Refuse can be disposed of in a similar manner owing to the agricultural nature of the district.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force on April 1st, 1925 and contain various important provisions designed to prevent the sale for human food of unsound meat and for the protection of meat from contamination by dirt, flies, etc. in course of transport or when exposed for sale. The Regulations provide for the notification to the local authority of the dates times and places of slaughtering and for the retention of the carcasses for a period to permit of inspection by an officer of the local authority. Other provisions are directed towards the maintenance of a proper standard of cleanliness in shops, stalls, etc., or places where meat is sold or exposed for sale or deposited for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale or with a view to future sale.

The portion of the regulations dealing with inspection at the time of slaughter is carried out as effectively as possible and inspections are made in the majority of instances ; at the same time, in a scattered rural district this part of the regulations does present some difficulty in carrying out efficiently, on the other hand article 9 of the Regulations places on the person by or on whose behalf an animal is slaughtered the duty of giving notice to the local authority if any part of the carcase is found to be diseased or unsound. The total number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector under the regulations during the year amounted to the number of 268. So far as meat shops are concerned the majority are run in connection with slaughter-houses with a few exceptions where grocers and provision dealers carry on a small trade in pork. The pigs for this trade are generally killed in one or other of the registered premises ; but if killed on a farm, small holding, etc. as an occasional affair for purposes of sale for food, the giving of notice of intention to slaughter is insisted upon and every effort made to inspect the carcase at the time. There are no stalls from which meat is sold in the district.

There are, however, a few butchers who come in from other districts and sell meat from vehicles ; these conveyances are periodically inspected to see that reasonable precautions as to cleanliness and protection of meat from contamination are taken. The total weight of diseased or unsound meat destroyed during the year amounted to 216 pounds.

Part III. of the Regulations deal with meat marking or the application of a distinctive mark to carcasses inspected and found to be sound. Certain conditions have to be fulfilled before this can be done and application made to the Ministry for authorisation of the use of a mark. No attempt to carry out this has been made in this district.

The Tuberculosis Order of 1925, which came into operation on September 1st, provides for the slaughter of tubercular animals ; provision is made by an amending Order for notice of intention to slaughter to be given to the Sanitary Authority where it is intended that any part of the carcass is to be sold for human food, and no part of the carcass is to be removed from the premises for that purpose unless permission in writing is given by the Medical Officer of Health or other competent officer. No notices under this order have been received up to the end of the year.

BAKEHOUSES :—

There are 15 bakehouses in the district distributed between the following parishes :—

Clare, 4 ; Great Thurlow, 1 ; Hundon, 1 ; Kedington, 1 ; Poslingford, 2 ; Stansfield, 1 ; Stoke-by-Clare, 1 ; Stradishall, 1 ; Wickhambrook, 1 ; Withersfield, 2.

The construction and general sanitary condition of these premises is on the whole fairly good and the usual requirements as to limewashing have been carried out. Six derive their water supply from waterworks ; four from public wells ; and the remainder from private wells.

An objectionable feature that may be referred to is the contamination of bread by dust and dirt and the handling that loaves receive in the

course of sale and delivery. It cannot be said that in many instances particular care is taken for the sufficient protection of this important article of food.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are no Factories in the district.

Workshops, Workplaces.	Number of inspections	—	94.
„ „ „	on the Register	—	82.
Defects found	—	—	7.
„ remedied	—	—	7.
Nature of defects, want of cleanliness.			
Outworkers lists received from employers	—	—	2.
„ actual number	—	—	87.
„ nature of work, clothing and glove making.			
Infected premises	—	—	Nil.

During the past five years the district has been free from outbreaks of any of the notifiable infectious diseases. The number of cases notified during the period under review is indicated in the following table :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Diphtheria.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.	4	3	5	3	4	—
Enteric.	1	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever.	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia.	—	—	—	3	10	2
Erysipelas.	6	1	2	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.	—	1	3	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis.	—	—	—	—	—	—

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever have been notified since the inception of the regulations in 1919.

So far as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are concerned no case of the latter disease has been notified since 1918; the last record of an outbreak of any dimensions was in 1893 when 133 cases of Scarlet Fever and 102 of Diphtheria occurred, and again in 1898 when there were 102 cases of Scarlet Fever. The last case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever to be notified occurred in 1921.

As already mentioned there is no provision within the district, or any arrangement, for the hospital isolation of cases of infectious disease; the principle adopted has been one of home isolation with as strict a supervision as possible over the affected household, including a search for contacts, missed or unnoticed cases, and making use of information derived from school notifications. Disinfection is effected by the formalin spray or by fumigation; there is no steam disinfecter for the disinfection of infected clothing etc., and no special provision within the area for the cleansing of verminous persons.

So far as non-notifiable infectious disease is concerned there has not been any undue prevalence during the year. The majority of cases of Influenza that occurred were of a mild type, but one death is attributed to this disease. The death rate from Influenza per thousand population is as follows:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Clare Rural District.	.40	.13	.13	.13
England and Wales.	.54	.22	.49	.32

There has been no particular incidence of any other disease; Whooping Cough was most prevalent during the month of May, and a few cases of Measles occurred during May and September. There have been no deaths attributed to Measles during the last five years and none from Whooping Cough since 1922 when there were three.

The number of notifications of children excluded from school received in the year was 143 and included the following:—

Chicken Pox, 54. Whooping Cough, 69. Influenza, 9. Mumps, 7.

The Council has continued the practice of the compulsory notification of Chicken Pox during the year owing to the similarity that may sometimes exist between this disease and mild cases of Small Pox. The number of cases notified is given in Table A. At the request of practitioners in the area several cases were investigated, but all proved to be cases of Chicken Pox.

Cancer caused 11 deaths during the year equal to a death rate of 1.49 per thousand population as against a death rate of 1.35, 1.49, 1.77 for the years 1924, 1923 and 1922, the number of deaths in these years being 10, 11 and 13 respectively.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—

These are usually made at the County Laboratory, Bury St. Edmunds, or may be carried out at the Bacteriological Laboratory, 6, Post Office Terrace, Cambridge. A certain number of specimens are also sent by practitioners in the district to the Clinical Research Association, London.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is obtained by practitioners when required and the cost charged to the Rural District Council.

TABLE A.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Remov'd to Hospital	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Small Pox													
Scarlet Fever													
Diphtheria													
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)														
Puerperal Fever													
Pneumonia ...	2									1		1		1
Erysipelas ...	1											1		
Encephalitis Lethargica														
Acute Anterior poliomyelitis													
DISEASES Notifiable locally Chicken Pox ...	29		2		3	4	17	2	1					
TOTALS ...	32		2		3	4	17	2	1	1	1	2		

TABLE B.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :-

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total blindness	Deaths.
Notified	Treated		1	—	—	—
1	at Home	In Hospital				
	1	—				

TABLE C.

New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis during the Year.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1				1	
1			2				2	
5								
10								
15		2				1		
20	3							
25	1							
35	1							
45								
55	4	1						
65 and upwards					1			
TOTALS ...	9	3	3	—	1	1	3	—

One death of an unnotified case occurred, but on enquiry it was found that it was thought to have been already notified by another practitioner who had left the district.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which came into operation in August. These Regulations make it an offence for any person who is aware that he is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis to enter upon any employment or occupation in connection with a dairy which would involve the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk.

Section 62 of the Public Health Act of 1925 provides for the compulsory removal and detention in an institution of a person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and in an infectious state. No action has been necessary under this Section.

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Medical Officer of Health.

